

International Day of Forests: India's Efforts in Reviving Biodiversity and Combating Climate Change

On March 21, 2025, the International Day of Forests highlights the theme "Forests and Food," emphasizing the essential role of forests in food security, biodiversity conservation, and [climate change mitigation](#). Forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing greenhouse gases and helping regulate global temperatures. In India, where forests are deeply connected to the environment and economy, conservation efforts are crucial for tackling climate change challenges and ensuring sustainable development.

To combat climate change and protect forest ecosystems, India has introduced several initiatives:

1. National Agroforestry Policy (2014)

This policy promotes [climate-resilient agriculture](#) by integrating trees with crops, improving carbon sequestration, and boosting soil fertility. It enhances sustainable farming while reducing climate change vulnerabilities. The ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI) collaborates with ICFRE, CSIR, and ICRAF to implement climate-smart agroforestry through improved Quality Planting Material (QPM) distribution.

2. Green India Mission (GIM)

As a major component of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), GIM works to restore and expand India's forest cover by 5 million hectares, improving another 5 million hectares of degraded land. The initiative enhances carbon sequestration, strengthens ecosystem resilience, and promotes climate adaptation. By supporting forest-based livelihoods, it benefits over 3 million households, offering climate-friendly economic opportunities.

3. Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme

With climate change leading to increased wildfire incidents, this scheme helps states and Union Territories mitigate forest fire risks. Using Remote Sensing, GPS, and GIS, authorities can track and prevent fires more effectively. The initiative also fosters community engagement in forest conservation, ensuring sustainable management of natural resources.

4. [Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana \(PMVDY\)](#)

Launched in 2018, PMVDY strengthens tribal livelihoods by improving the value of Minor Forest Produce (MFPs). The program establishes Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs), where indigenous communities process and market forest-based products using eco-friendly techniques. This supports climate change adaptation by reducing reliance on unsustainable resource extraction and promoting sustainable forest economies.

India's commitment to [climate change mitigation](#) through forest conservation, biodiversity restoration, and sustainable livelihoods ensures a resilient and eco-friendly future. These initiatives play a pivotal role in securing the planet's climate stability and protecting natural ecosystems.